

CONFIDENTIAL

139

18 June 1980

BRIEF FOR: Frank Farrell  
Intelligence Branch, INS

FROM :   
International Issues Division, OPA

25X1

SUBJECT : Libyan Assassination Teams: Some Patterns

1. We have reason to doubt that Libya's Qadhafi has ordered a halt to the ongoing series of assassinations of Libyan dissidents living abroad. While Western Europe has been the major arena for these incidents, we believe that Libyans living in the US will also be targetted, in part as proof that no one is safe from Qadhafi's vengeance.

2. Preliminary analysis of the European murders suggests that there are two types of Libyan hit teams operating against dissident targets. In the majority of killings, it appears that professional assassins (presumably belonging to the Libyan Intelligence Service) have been the perpetrators. In several cases, however, the killings appear to have been the work of amateurs, possibly students or others with little formal training in covert warfare. The fact that two of the victims were killed by strangulation and decapitation suggests amateurs rather than professional killers.

3. A common modus operandi has been for a two-man hit squad to kill the victim. The hit teams probably are relying on locally-recruited Libyans or members of the so-called "People's Bureaus" to do the spotting. The Peoples' Bureau probably also arranges for the extraction of the hit team once an operation is complete.

PA M 80-10280

25X1

CONFIDENTIAL

## CONFIDENTIAL

4. The West European cases lead us to expect that the Peoples' Bureau in the US would be responsible for spotting and assessing Libyan dissidents living here, with a hit squad being sent in to commit the actual assassinations. In addition to whatever weapons the Peoples' Bureau here already possesses, the Libyan government would not hesitate to use the diplomatic pouch to bring in more. Thus the assassins are unlikely to attempt to enter the US armed.

5. The whole concept of the "Peoples' Bureaus" has caused an inordinate amount of difficulty for governments worldwide in trying to define the exact status of Peoples Bureau "diplomats." At times the Libyans claim to have diplomatic immunity; at others, such as the recent case in the US, they have claimed to be in a non-diplomatic status and therefore not capable of being PNGed. Libyan assassins are probably capitalizing on this confusion and traveling on Peoples Bureau passports.

6. An argument can be made that all persons traveling on Peoples' Bureau passports are to some degree accomplices of these assassination plots, although the vast majority of them probably are not involved in actual assassinations. Peoples Bureau personnel entering the US from a European location (especially London, Rome, Bonn, Geneva, or Malta) where there is a recent history of assassination attempts deserve special attention however. Unfortunately we cannot yet determine whether the hit teams are traveling singly or in small groups.

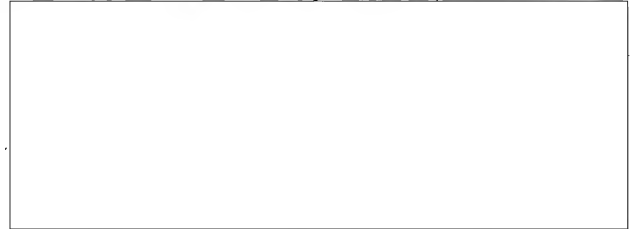
7. Additionally, some assassins might be traveling on regular Libyan passports. Again, those possessing passports recently stamped in European countries deserve special attention. We have no evidence of assassins traveling on non-Libyan passports, although the Libyan Intelligence Service can fabricate such documents. We cannot confirm that non-Libyan nationals have been used to carry out any of the recent assassinations, nor that non-Libyans have been targetted.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

8. Libyan government involvement in the assassination campaign means that some terrorist profiles do not apply. For example, hit teams may not be carrying unusual amounts of money as the Peoples' Bureaus can supply funding. Weapons are probably not being carried into the US but are already cached here.

25X1



Attachment: Annex

CONFIDENTIAL

## ANNEX

As of 18 June 1980, ten Libyans have been assassinated.  
They include:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Age</u>	<u>Profession</u>	<u>City/Date</u>	<u>Method</u>
Mohammed Ramadan	35	journalist	London/11 Apr	Shot
Abd al-Jalal Aref	NFI	businessman	Rome/19 Apr	Shot
Salem Mohamed Rtemi	NFI	businessman	Rome/21 Mar	Shot
Mohamed Nafa	NFI	NFI	London/25 Apr	Shot
Umran al-Mahdawi	NFI	Former Diplomat	Bonn/10 May	Shot
Abdallah el Khazmi	37	NFI	Rome/10 May	Shot
Mohamed Buhajar	NFI	NFI	Rome/20 May	Strangled
Abdul Bakr Rahman	NFI	former army officer	Athens/21 May	Decapitated
NFI	NFI	NFI	Beirut/NFI	NFI
Azedin Lahderi	56	NFI	Milan/11 June	Shot

Additionally, several other Libyan dissidents have  
been wounded or have escaped in other assassination attempts.